Federal City Performing Arts Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Monday, January 12, 2009

Present: Stephen Bennett; John Benton; Russ Capps; Jack Gerard; Paula Gibson; Rob Hall; Eric James; Steve Herman; Michael Hill; Steve Katsurinis; Greg Kubiak; Jerry Lee; Tom Mounteer; John O'Brien; Dan Patton; Todd Paul; Paul Pompeo; Shannon Rozner; Robert Winter

Absent: Suzette Derrevere (Pompeo has her proxy); Howland Hartley (Hall has his proxy); Mark Young

Staff: Jeff Buhrman, Taunee Grant

Call to Order

Chairman Michael Hill called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. He thanked Board members Shannon Rozner for hosting, and Tom Mounteer and George Farrah for hosting a new donor's party within the past few weeks of the meeting.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following: Minutes of the November 24, 2008 Board meeting; President's Report; Artistic Director's Report; Executive Director's Report; Chair's Report.

MOTION: Hall moved that the documents constituting the Consent Agenda be approved as submitted. Katsurinis seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Artistic Director's Report

Marketing Director

Artistic Director Jeff Buhrman introduced new Director of Marketing, Taunee Grant to the Board. Grant provided her vision and goals for what she hopes to accomplish on behalf of GMCW.

Inauguration Performance

Buhrman reflected his excitement at GMCW being invited to perform at the "We Are One" concert to mark the inauguration of President Barack Obama. He said the greatest challenge was to reduce the number of singers from the 175 who wished to sing down to the approximately 100 that the Presidential Inauguration Committee would allow. He thanked Chorus President, John O'Brien for working closely with him to ensure that the selection of performers was done in a fair and supportable way. Buhrman thanked Board member Tom Mounteer for his assistance in getting GMCW invited to perform at the concert as well as getting Potomac Fever an appearance at the Equality Inaugural Ball.

Holiday Concert

Buhrman reported on the ticket sales for the Holiday concert, which exceeded projections significantly. He thanked GMCW Business Manager Brad Ward and Board Secretary Steve Herman for their work in ensuring that ticketing went smoothly despite challenges related to the Lincoln's contract with Ticketmaster, precluding GMCW from utilizing its ticketing system.

Treasurer's Report

Board Treasurer Jerry Lee reported that at year's end, the Chorus was in financially sound shape. He discussed areas of concern including corporate giving and explained a variance in foundation giving, most notably the decision to move the Cafritz grant into the FY08 budget.

MOTION: Paul moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Gerard seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Development

Russ Capps discussed a number of issues related to fund-raising, including Board pledges, concert sponsorships, and the challenge in attracting corporate sponsors in this economy. Much of his report addressed progress in working toward Spring Affair. Stephen Bennett and Craig Ferrier are hosting a table captain reception; Paula Gibson and Stephen Bennett are serving as Table Captain Co-Chairs and are working to sign up table captains.

MOTION: Lee moved to accept the Development Report. Katsurinis seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Building the Future Task Force

Task Force Chair Robert Winter reported that the Task Force members were exploring a number of models for space when the Chorus administrative office lease expires in 2010. A comprehensive report and a recommendation will be presented to the Board at its March meeting.

MOTION: Gibson moved to accept the Building the Future Task Force Report as presented. Gerard seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning

Vice Chair Bennett reported that Mark Young volunteered to work on the Strategic Planning Committee. He said the group was looking at ways to ensure the long-term viability of GMCW, examining questions about the future of the gay choral movement and how GMCW might diversify its funding stream to ensure its financial health.

Communications and Marketing

Dan Patton reported that the design team completed the work outlined in the branding study. Thanks to Pompeo, Arnold and Porter completed pro bono work in obtaining copyright protection for the new logo and tagline. Patton thanked Pompeo for making this possible. Website development continues and will be done in phases. Hill thanked Patton for his incredible work on the website and implementing the branding initiative. The Board showed its appreciation to Patton with a round of applause.

MOTION: Pompeo moved to accept the Communications and Marketing Report and the Artistic Director's update. Capps seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel and recruitment issues.

Adjournment

MOTION: Pompeo moved that the meeting be adjourned. Hall seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.